

OPINION 2041 (Case 3081)

***Alucita ochrodactyla* Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775 (currently *Gillmeria* or *Platyptilia ochrodactyla*; Insecta, Lepidoptera): specific name conserved by the designation of a neotype for *Phalaena tetradactyla* Linnaeus, 1758**

Abstract. The Commission has designated the lectotype of *Phalaena tridactyla* Linnaeus, 1758 (currently *Merrifieldia tridactyla*) as neotype for the European plume moth *P. tetradactyla* Linnaeus, 1758 (family PTEROPHORIDAE) conserving the specific name of *Gillmeria* (or *Platyptilia*) *ochrodactyla* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) and eliminating the confused application of the name *tetradactyla* to more than one species.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Lepidoptera; Microlepidoptera; PTEROPHORIDAE; *Gillmeria ochrodactyla*; *Platyptilia ochrodactyla*; *Phalaena* (currently *Merrifieldia tridactyla*); *Alucita* (currently *Merrifieldia leucodactyla*); plume moths.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power all previous type fixations for the nominal species *Phalaena tetradactyla* Linnaeus, 1758 are hereby set aside and the lectotype of *P. tridactyla* Linnaeus, 1758 designated by Robinson & Nielsen (1983) is designated as the neotype.
- (2) The name *Phalaena tridactyla* Linnaeus, 1758, as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above, is given precedence over the name *P. tetradactyla* Linnaeus, 1758 (an objective synonym by the ruling in (1) above).
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *tridactyla* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Phalaena tridactyla* and as defined by the lectotype designated by Robinson & Nielsen (1983);
 - (b) *ochrodactyla* Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775, as published in the binomen *Alucita ochrodactyla*;
 - (c) *leucodactyla* Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775, as published in the binomen *Alucita leucodactyla* and as defined by the neotype designated by Arenberger (1985).
- (4) The name *tetradactyla* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Phalaena tetradactyla* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above (a junior objective synonym of *P. tridactyla* Linnaeus, 1758 by the precedence ruled in (2) above) is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3081

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Gillmeria* (or *Platyptilia*) *ochrodactyla* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) by the designation of a neotype for *Phalaena tetradactyla* Linnaeus, 1758 was received from D.J.L. Agassiz

(*The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London*) on 10 June 1998. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 58: 282–285 (December 2001). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments on this case were received.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 2002 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 58: 284. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 2003 the votes were as follows: 24 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, no Commissioners voted AGAINST, no vote was received from Mahnert, Ng was on leave of absence.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

leucodactyla, *Alucita*, Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775, *Ankündigung eines systematisches Werkes von den Schmetterlinge der Wiener Gegend*, p. 146.

ochrodactyla, *Alucita*, Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775, *Ankündigung eines systematisches Werkes von den Schmetterlinge der Wiener Gegend*, p. 145.

tetradactyla, *Phalaena*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 542.

tridactyla, *Phalaena*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 542.

The following is the reference for the designation of the lectotype of *Phalaena tridactyla* Linnaeus, 1758:

Robinson, G. S. & Nielsen, E. S. 1983. *Systematic Entomology*, 8: 234.

The following is the reference for the designation of the neotype of *Alucita leucodactyla* Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775:

Arenberger, E. 1985. *Entomologische Zeitschrift*, 95(17): 245.